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(54) Title: A ROLE IN LIGNIFICATION AND GROWTH FOR PLANT PHENYLCOUMARAN BENZYLIC ETHER REDUCTASE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the role of plant phenylcoumaran benzylic ether reductase (PCBER) (1) in lignification and growth of plants. More particular, the invention relates to plants in which PCBER has been downregulated, resulting in a lower lignin content, higher soluble phenolics, a higher resistance to plant pathogens and a higher biomass production of the plant. These characteristics are maintained under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

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